United Nations E/2010/65

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 May 2010
English
Original: Spanish

Substantive session of 2010
New York, 28 June-23 July 2010
Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

Attached herewith is the national report of the Federative Republic of Brazil on progress towards the achievement of the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council, under item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Maria Luiza Ribeiro **Viotti**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2010/100

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Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

Report of Brazil on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women

Summary

The second National Women's Policy Plan, which covers the period 2008 to 2011, takes Brazil's international commitments into account. Preparation of the Plan was coordinated by the Department of Women's Policies (SPM) in the Office of the President of the Republic with the involvement of 22 national bodies and 300,000 Brazilian women, whose views were heard at national, municipal and state conferences. The initial poverty reduction target — a 25 per cent reduction over the 1990 level — was achieved in 2007. The Family Grant programme and other social programmes have reduced the proportion of the population classified as poor from 12 per cent in 2003 to 4.8 per cent in 2008. With respect to education, the enrolment rate is slightly higher for girls than for boys at all grade levels. The Gender and Diversity at School Programme is one of the initiatives aimed at overcoming gender and racial stereotypes. The maternal mortality rate declined from 140 to 75 per 100,000 live births between 1990 and 2007. The National Maternal Mortality Reduction Pact, the Infant Mortality Rate Reduction Plan for the Legal Amazon and North-East Regions, and other measures are being implemented with a view to the achievement of Goal 4 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The National Violence against Women Pact includes the activities of 11 federal, state and municipal bodies. A network of services for women victims of violence, including a free hotline ("Llame 180"), has been established. Implementation of the National Plan for the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons (PNETP) includes prevention, staff training and treatment of victims. The National Decent Work Plan reflects the principle of work equity. Discrimination is combated through the Pro-Gender-Equity Programme, the National Family Farming Programme — Women (PRONAF — Mujer) line of credit and other initiatives. In order to increase the number of women in positions of power, the election laws were amended in 2009. The SPM, the Women's Bench in the National Congress and the National Forum of Women's Organizations in Political Parties encourage women to run for office and promote a change in social attitudes.

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPEA	Institute for Applied Economic Research
IUD	Intra-uterine device
PNPM	National Women's Policy Plan
PRONAF	National Family Farming Programme
SINASC	Live Births Information System
SPM	Department of Women's Policies
STDs	Sexually transmitted diseases
SUS	Single Health System
UCI	Intermediate care unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UTI	Intensive care unit

Introduction

1. Social policies aimed at the most vulnerable groups and policies for promoting equality and combating discrimination have characterized the Government of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva since his first term of office. These policies include commitments made with respect to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which Brazil ratified in 1984; the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), which Brazil ratified in 1995; and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), which Brazil ratified in 2004.

Women's policies

2. The Department of Women's Policies (SPM), which operates under the Office of the Pres :nt of the Republic and is headed by a woman Minister of State, is responsible for coordinating, together with other sectors of Government, the effort to reflect women's demands, needs and potential in the entire process of public policy development, implementation and execution.

3. The manner in which the various sectors of Government are integrated is set forth explicitly in the two National Women's Policy Plans (PNPMs), which were the outcome of the National Women's Policy Conferences held in July 2004 and August 2007. These two Conferences directly involved in municipal and provincial conferences over 300,000 Brazilian women, who, together with the Government, established the principles and guidelines of the PNPMs.

4. PNPM I includes 199 activities in five strategic areas; PNPM II (2008-2011) was expanded with an additional 388 activities in 11 areas; 22 bodies were involved in their implementation.[1] Its 11 strategic areas are: economic independence and equality in work-related matters; inclusive, non-discriminatory education; women's health and sexual and reproductive rights; addressing all forms of violence against women; women in positions of power and decision-making posts; sustainable development in rural, urban and woodland areas; the right to land, decent housing and social infrastructures; the environment; culture, communication and the media; addressing racism, sexism and prejudice against lesbians; addressing inequalities between age groups; and oversight and monitoring of the Plan.[2]

[1] PNPM II (2008-2011) is posted on the web site in Portuguese, Spanish and English: http://200.130.7.5/spmu/portal_pr/destaques_plano_nacional_pr.htm.

[2] In order to facilitate the monitoring, evaluation and societal oversight of the PNPM, the Plan Coordination and Monitoring Committee, on which 16 ministries and departments are represented, has been established. In 2009, the Brazilian Gender Equality Observatory was inaugurated in order to provide support for the formulation and improvement of gender policies and of public policy in general at the federal, state and municipal levels. The Observatory consists of five working groups in strategic areas: public policy, legislation and legislators, international affairs, and communications and the media.

5. The public policy implementation authorities in other federal bodies are being strengthened by encouraging the development of state and municipal women's policy plans. At present, there are 22 gender bodies in the states and 277 municipal offices, coordinating bodies and focal points. The 23 state women's rights councils and 345 municipal councils also work with Government bodies.

Women and poverty

6. The 2010 National Millennium Development Goals Monitoring Report shows a continuing decline in the levels of poverty and extreme poverty and although there is still a wide gap between rich and poor, it has been narrowing at a reasonable rate. The initial poverty reduction target has been voluntarily increased; the poverty rate was to have been reduced to 25 per cent of the 1990 level by 2010, but this goal was achieved by 2007 and exceeded in 2008.

7. One of the Brazilian Government's primary poverty elimination measures is the Family Grant programme. This programme involves a direct transfer of funds, considered to be the largest in the world, subject to certain conditions: prenatal examinations, nutrition and health monitoring and school attendance by children and adolescents. At present, 12.4 million families — over 43 million people — are receiving family grants.

8. Families listed in a single register are classified as poor or extremely poor; this determines the amount of the grant. In 94 per cent of cases, the funds are disbursed to families through women. Both the beneficiaries and the providers agree that it is preferable for the recipients to be women since they are considered to have a better understanding of the family's needs and to be likely to spend the money on food and on children. The Programme's primary impact on women's social status is that they are viewed as consumers; that their authority in the home is affirmed by the purchasing power derived from the grant; and that the beneficiaries are now perceived as citizens because they have received identification documents.

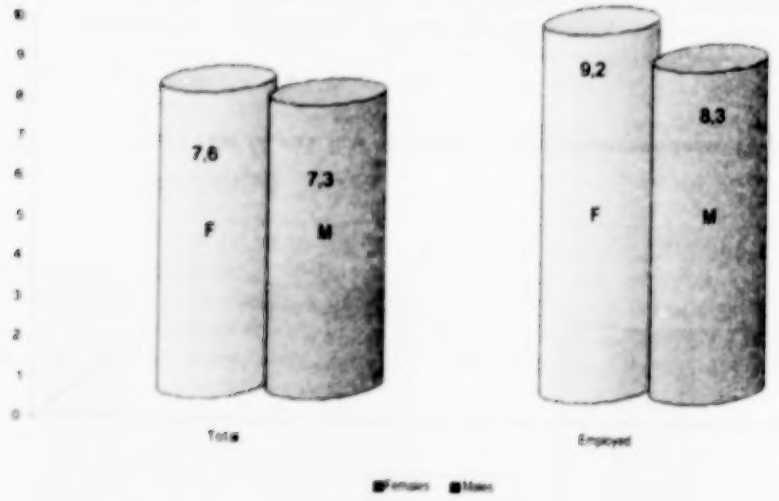
9. As a result of implementation of the Family Grant programme and of other social policies, the proportion of the population living in poverty — on less than US$ 1.25 per day (based on purchasing power parity) — fell from 12 per cent to 4.8 per cent between 2003 and 2008.

Education and training for women

10. Women have been represented in increasing numbers at all levels of education in Brazil. They account for the majority of high school and university students and receive the majority of M.A. and Ph.D. scholarships in the country. In 2008, women over 15 had received, on average, 7.6 years of education as compared to 7.3 years for men (see Graphs I and II). These positive statistics for women's education include younger women, but not poor women in older age groups. In light of the observed overall enrolment parity, with a slightly higher level for women, affirmative action measures are confined to groups such as indigenous women, rural dwellers, women in quilombo communities, Afro-descendents, disabled persons and older persons.

Graph I

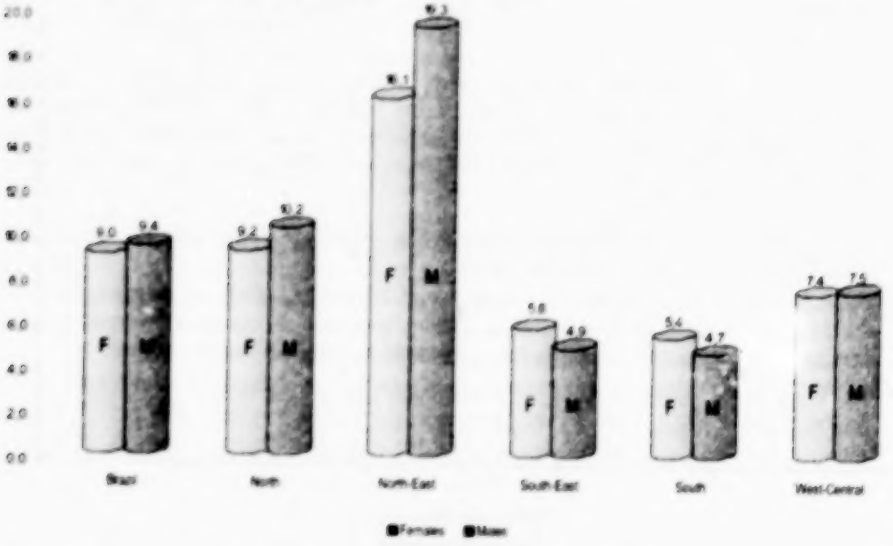
Average number of years of study among the population aged 15 years or older in urban areas (total and employed), by sex. Brazil, 2008



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, *Synthesis of social indicators 2008: An Analysis of Living Conditions* (Rio de Janeiro, 2008).

Graph II

Illiteracy rate for 10-year-olds, by sex. Brazil, 2008

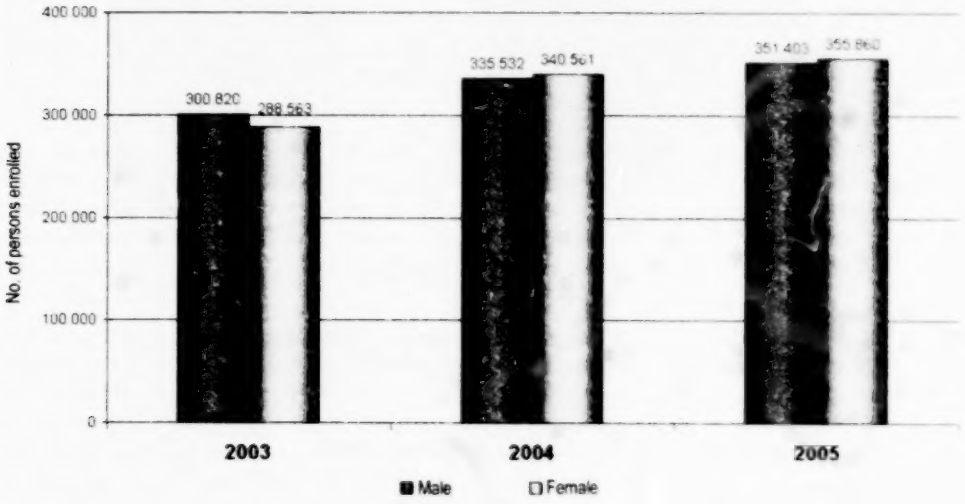


Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, *Synthesis of social indicators 2008: An Analysis of Living Conditions* (Rio de Janeiro, 2008).

11. Enrolment in professional and technological education increased between 2003 and 2005; enrolment levels were slightly higher for women than for men (see Graph III). However, men continue to predominate in the so-called "male" types of work: industry, computer science and farming. The exception is civil construction, an area in which many women have received training. Women still predominate in the health-related fields of study.

Graph III

Enrolment in vocational education in Brazil by year and by sex: 2003, 2004 and 2005



12. Despite the progress achieved, there is still a fundamental need for gender equality: awareness-raising for federal, state and municipal officials; training of professionals at the national level; mainstreaming gender into basic and higher education curricula; and preparation of teaching materials and instruction guidelines for classroom use.

13. In order to overcome gender stereotypes, which are associated with racial and sexual orientation stereotypes, the Ministry of Education, in coordination with the SPM, has been implementing the Gender and Diversity at School Programme since 2005. The Programme trains public school teachers to manage diversity in the classroom and to overcome prejudice expressed in attitudes and behaviour.

14. In addition to this effort to change gender stereotypes in education, the Women and Science Programme has been implemented since 2005 in order to foster scientific research and consideration of gender relations in Brazil and to increase the number of women in scientific fields and science teaching. The Programme includes: (a) the Building Gender Equality Prize, a set of essays and scientific articles targeting secondary school, university and graduate school students; the latest version was read by some 5,000 students; (b) the gender, women's and feminist studies research bulletin; and (c) the National Research Communities and Groups Meeting: Considering Gender and the Sciences.

15. The 1,000 Women Project also focus on promoting equity, combating violence and ensuring access to education. By the end of 2010, it will have provided technical and technological training to some 1,000 disadvantaged women in the North and North-East regions of the country, according to the economic activity of each community. The Programme has three main areas — education, citizenship and sustainable development — and promotes social inclusion through training with the goal of independence and the development of alternatives with a view to entry into the labour market.

Women and health

16. Under PNPM I and II and in coordination with the SPM, the Ministry of Health is implementing a number of programmes and activities that focus on women's specific health needs. The incorporation of a diversity perspective and of the particular needs of women from various areas and social situations such as, inter alia, indigenous, black, lesbian and bisexual, adolescent, young and older women, women prisoners, rural dwellers, women in situations of violence and HIV/AIDS-positive women, has been important in ensuring the universality, equity and comprehensiveness of the health services. The National Comprehensive Women's Health Care Policy has been in place since 2004.[3]

17. There has been a progressive decline in the maternal mortality rate, which fell from 140 to 75 per 100,000 live births between 1990 and 2007. The National Maternal Mortality Reduction Pact, which has been recognized as an innovative strategy for mobilizing society in pursuit of the MDGs, was launched in 2004 in order to address the enormous challenge of reducing the maternal mortality rate to 35 per 100,000 live births by 2015. This Pact, which has been adopted by all 27 of Brazil's states, highlights the activities of the nation's approximately 1,000 maternal mortality committees at the national, regional, state and municipal levels. A 15 per cent reduction in the country's maternal mortality rate by 2011 is anticipated.

18. The Infant Mortality Rate Reduction Plan for the Legal Amazon and North-East Regions seeks to reduce the infant and neonatal mortality rate in 250 high-priority municipalities of these key regions by five per cent annually until 2010. The Plan therefore provides for an increase in the number of family health teams; prenatal, childbirth and newborn health examinations; additional beds in the intensive care units (UTIs) and intermediate care units (UCIs); facility modification in maternity units and hospitals; safe transport for pregnant women and newborns; expansion of the Mother's Milk Bank Network; training of paediatricians and gynaecologists; training of urgent and emergency obstetrical care professionals; training of health transport, information and monitoring professionals; with respect to information management, an increase in the coverage and quality of the mortality and live birth databases; epidemiological monitoring of foetal, infant and maternal deaths by the state and municipal health departments; establishment of infant and

[3] In Brazil, health-related activities and services are offered both by State (federal, state and municipal) bodies and institutions and by public institutions that ensure quality control, conduct research and produce drugs and other products, including blood, blood products and equipment. This set of activities and services constitutes the single health system (SUS) in accordance with article 4 of the Single Health System Organization Act (Act No. 8,080, adopted in 1990).

maternal mortality committees; improved social monitoring and mobilization; and promotion of regional studies on issues related to infant and maternal mortality.

19. The National Sexual and Reproductive Rights Policy is an instrument used to increase the number and variety of contraceptive methods distributed to women of reproductive age. This Policy, which is based on a broad concept of women's health, seeks to prevent unwanted pregnancy and to reduce the number of induced abortions and resulting maternal deaths. The three areas on which the Policy focuses are the increased availability of reversible contraceptive methods, better access to voluntary surgical sterilization, and coverage of assisted human reproduction under the Single Health System (SUS).[4]

20. The National Family Planning Programme, launched in 2007, promoted, inter alia, coverage of vasectomies under the National Elective Surgery Policy and of the sale of contraceptives at discounts of up to 90 per cent by authorized pharmacies and drugstores under the Brazilian People's Pharmacies Programme. Since 2008, 1 billion condoms have been acquired for distribution and information on contraceptive methods has been more widely disseminated.

21. The goal of the Integrated Plan for Reduction of the Number of Women with HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases, implemented with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), is to provide guidance for the development and implementation of inter-sectoral activities that can provide more rapid access to tools for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS. There are 20 state action plans aimed at reducing the transmission rate, which is rising most rapidly among adult married women.

22. Other noteworthy initiatives include the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Action Plan, which provided increased numbers of mammograms, breast biopsies and Pap smears and reduced the number of radical, mutilating surgeries; field-level obstetrical care, such as training in emergency care for doctors and nurses and normal childbirth campaigns; the National Sickle-Cell Anaemia Carrier Treatment Programme, which focuses on women of reproductive age; and the Mobile Emergency Care Service.

Violence against women

23. In 2003, through the development and implementation of the National Violence against Women Policy, prevention and treatment programmes and efforts to ensure women's enjoyment of their rights in various areas have been developed.

24. The Domestic and Family Violence Act (Act No. 11,340 of 7 August 2006, also called the Maria da Penha Act) established a mechanism for combating domestic and family violence against women; UNIFEM considers the Act to be one of the world's three most progressive pieces of legislation for addressing violence

[4] Since the 2005 launch of the National Sexual and Reproductive Rights Policy, the Ministry of Health has distributed contraceptive methods to SUS users: emergency pills and mini-pills (since 2006), injectable contraceptives, diaphragms, male condoms and intra-uterine devices (IUDs).

against women. It is based on the international instruments that Brazil has ratified and, inter alia, provides for the establishment of domestic and family violence against women courts and for the treatment and protection of women in situations of domestic and family violence.

25. In August 2007, the federal Government launched the National Violence against Women Pact, which covers programmes to be implemented during the period 2008-2011 with a focus on rural, black and indigenous women, taking into account the specific needs of each group, the discrimination to which those women are subjected and their greater social vulnerability. A total of 11 ministries and departments, in addition to states and municipalities, publicly owned enterprises, the judiciary, the Office of the Prosecutor and international and non-governmental organizations were involved in preparation of the Pact; all of them are seeking to address all forms of violence against women through prevention, treatment and protection and by ensuring that women in situations of violence can exercise their rights and promoting cultural changes that foster egalitarian attitudes and the ethical values of full respect for diversity and peace.

26. The Pact's four strategic areas call for activities such as (a) construction and renovation of and provision of new equipment for women's services referral centres, shelters, specialized women's police stations, special domestic and family violence against women courts and women's ombudsmen's offices; (b) training of professionals in the network of services for women in situations of violence; (c) support for initiatives aimed at preventing violence against women and strengthening respect for the human rights of women prisoners; (d) expansion and consolidation of the women's services hotline, Llame 180; (e) promotion and implementation of campaigns for preventing and combating violence against women; (f) implementation of the National Trafficking in Persons Policy; and (g) teacher training in non-discriminatory content.

27. The country currently has 68 shelters, 146 referral centres, 56 specialized ombudsman's offices, 475 specialized women's police stations or units, 147 specialized criminal courts or magistrates for cases involving domestic and family violence against women, 14 specialized units in state public prosecutors' offices and 5 special prosecutors' offices, 8 trafficking-in-persons units and 7 rehabilitation centres for abusers.

28. The women's services hotline, Llame 180 — a service that the federal Government has provided since 2005 — received 401,729 calls in 2009, a 1.89 per cent increase over 2006. Because this number is toll-free nationwide, it provides both access to the network of services for women in situations of violence and important information that is used to develop public policy for addressing the problem of violence against women.

29. The National Campaign for Addressing Violence against Women in Rural and Woodland Areas is a major campaign launched in 2008. Its goal, expressed through the words "Women in charge of their own lives: Women in rural and woodland areas have a right to live without violence", is to inform women in rural and woodland areas about domestic and family violence and warn them against it. The campaign, which focuses on women working in rural areas, women coconut workers, black women in rural and quilombo communities, Amazonian women, rubber tree workers and rural dwellers, involves setting up cultural offices, organizing activities in the

schools and developing radio programmes, soap operas and educational activities in order to set up a network of support for ending violence against women.

30. Concerning trafficking in persons, the National Plan for the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons (PNETP), adopted in 2008, includes the following activities: (a) support for a pilot project that involves setting up a network of services, developing a proposed methodology for providing services to women victims of trafficking in persons and strengthening prevention efforts; (b) development of training programmes and expansion of the Women's Services Network in order to address the problem of trafficking in women; (c) training all the operators on the women's services hotline, Llame 180, to deal appropriately with women victims of trafficking; and (d) support for the establishment of service referral centres for women in situations of violence in the nation's land border regions. In that connection, Brazil signed a memorandum of understanding on border issues with Argentina and Paraguay in November 2009 and another with Venezuela in April 2010.

Women and the economy

31. Women's comparative advantage in education is not reflected on the labour market. Discrimination and inequality are even more evident in the workplace, which is characterized not only by social inequality, but also by ethnic, racial and gender inequality as a result of the hierarchy that recurs in virtually all social and economic indicators: generally speaking, men and whites find it easier to enter the labour market than women and blacks. Black women are the worst sufferers from discrimination because both their gender and their race or ethnicity set them apart.

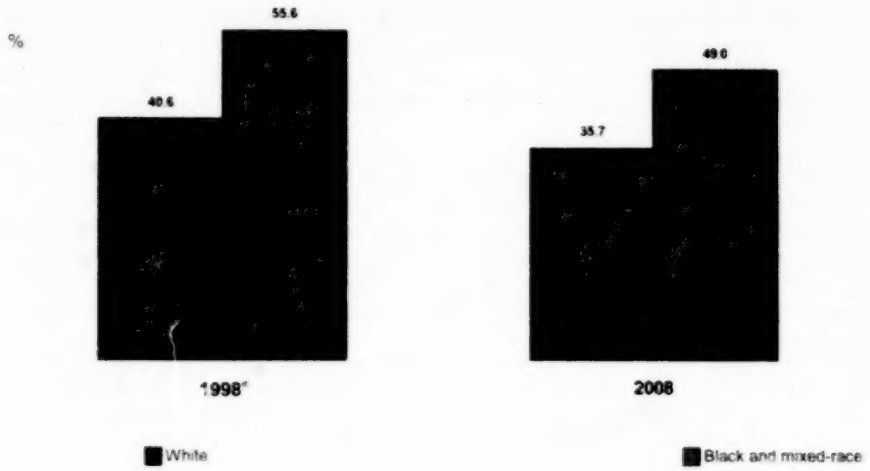
32. The National Decent Work Plan was adopted on 4 June 2009 in order to facilitate the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the federal Government's programmes and activities relating to the commitments made and targets set by Brazil as part of a national strategy for reducing poverty and promoting equitable, inclusive and sustainable development. The Plan is the result of a common effort by 18 ministries and departments, coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and taking into account the gender perspective introduced by the SPM.

33. From 1998 to 2009, the proportion of women in the workforce rose from 52.8 per cent to 57.6 per cent. This percentage increase for women was matched by a slight decrease in the percentage of employed men. The continuing employment disparity between men and women is primarily a result of the fact that women are expected to perform unpaid domestic work. In 2008, Brazilian women devoted an average of 25.1 hours per week to caring for their families and housekeeping; men devoted an average of 10 hours per week to such tasks.

34. Working women hold lower-paid jobs with fewer social benefits. In 2008, 42 per cent of employed women held jobs that were viewed as insecure. Almost 16 per cent of Brazilian women are domestic workers (Graph IV). There is also a significant wage gap; in 2008, women's wages were 84 per cent of men's and that gap increases at higher levels of education.

Graph IV

Percentage of the employed female population aged 15 or older performing jobs considered insecure because of the woman's race. Brazil, 1998-2008



Source: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, "Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios" (National Sample Household Survey) 1998 and 2008.

NB: Undocumented workers, domestic workers, unpaid work, self-consumption activities and construction for personal use.

* Does not include the rural population of Rondônia, Acre, Amazonas, Roraima, Pará e Amapa.

35. Action taken to combat inequality and gender discrimination on the labour market includes the Pro-Gender-Equity Programme, launched in 2005 with support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNIFEM, the primary objective of which is to promote equality of opportunity between men and women in public and private enterprise by developing new concepts and practices for human resource management and organizational culture. Such innovation is recognized by awarding a seal of approval that is valid for 12 months and demonstrates the enterprise's commitment to gender equity in all its institutional relations. The Programme strategy therefore gives enterprises an incentive to participate voluntarily and to develop an action plan for promoting equality of workplace opportunity between men and women.

36. During its first cycle, the Programme awarded the seal of approval to 11 public sector enterprises. In its second cycle (in 2007), 50 enterprises, both public and private, enrolled in the Programme; of that number, 36 submitted action plans and 23 received the seal of approval for having implemented at least 70 per cent of the planned activities. In 2009, 84 enterprises enrolled.

37. Two new work-related programmes are also noteworthy. The Women's Employment, Handicrafts, Tourism and Independence Programme seeks to strengthen public policies that foster local tourism by formulating strategies for the handicrafts sector that ensure women's independence and ownership from the gender equality and regional cultural identity perspectives. The Women's

Employment and Entrepreneurship Programme was launched in 2007 in order to encourage and support women in the establishment and running of their own businesses.

38. PRONAF-Women, a special line of credit for rural women, is an instrument for promoting equality between men and women in family farming. From 2003 to 2008, PRONAF-Women granted 35,697 loans at a value of over US$ 100 million to rural women, expanding with each harvest. Through this incentive, the proportion of loans granted to women increased from 10.47 per cent in 2001 to 25.58 per cent in 2006.

39. An important factor in the viability of these loans was the issuance of 560,000 identification documents between 2004 and 2007 under the National Rural Women Workers Documentation Programme, which not only made it possible to issue such documents at no cost but promoted specific efforts to increase awareness of the need for and usefulness of civil registration and employment documents and advised women on how to benefit from public policy in the areas of agrarian reform, family farming and social security.

40. Also on the issue of rural women, the commitment to issue 400,000 joint land titles to plots of land owned by couples — to all the families that benefited from the agrarian reform between 2004 and 2007 under PNPM I — was more than met. 415,653 women benefited from the Settlement Project. In 2000, 13 per cent of women held titles to plots of land. By 2007, as a result of the new measures, that number had risen to 55.8 per cent. The available data shows a significant increase in the number of rural women beneficiaries of the loan and agrarian reform programmes, which are improving the living conditions and increasing the independence of thousands of women.

Women in positions of power and decision-making posts

41. PNPM II endorsed a concept of political participation that includes a variety of approaches, ranging from membership in organizations of civil society to the holding of Government posts and elected office. At present, women are widely represented in various professional groups such as bar associations, trade unions, universities and political parties.[5]

42. There has been a slow and gradual increase in the number of women in positions of power in Brazil (see table). In the 2006 elections, only 176 of the 2,498 women candidates (including 2 candidates for the office of President of the Republic, 26 for state government office, 35 for Senate seats, 652 for seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 1,783 for seats in the state and Federal District legislative

[5] In these institutions, women normally form groups by establishing forums — coordinating bodies, departments and focal points — in order to conduct studies and present proposals on women's issues and gender relations to the relevant institutions, the Government and society. Within the framework of organized society, there are feminist movements and other movements representing a wide variety of women: black, indigenous and rural women, domestic workers, homemakers and mothers. These groups are based on identities that go beyond gender to include, inter alia, social status, race or ethnicity and sexual orientation. Other participatory forums for women focus on the environment; human rights; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (transvestite and transsexual) issues; persons with disabilities; older persons; children; and young people.

assemblies) were elected. This includes the 123 women (11.61 per cent) who were elected to fill some of the 1,059 seats in the state and Federal District legislative assemblies. Women account for 11.1 per cent of the 27 state governors and 7.5 per cent of the 5,559 mayors. This underrepresentation of women is even greater in the case of black, indigenous, young and lesbian women, women with disabilities, rural working women, domestic workers and women from low-income groups.

Distribution of men and women by post in elected decision-making bodies. Brazil, 2009

Branches of government	*Position*	*Women*		*Men*		*Total*
		No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*
Legislative branch	Federal Deputy	45	8.77	468	91.23	513
	State/District Deputy	123	11.60	936	88.40	1,059
	Councilman/woman	6,556	12.65	45,252	87.40	51,808
	Senator	10	12.34	71	87.654	81
Executive branch	President of the Republic	—	—	1	100.0	1
	Governor	3	11.10	24	88.9	27
	Mayor	418	7.50	5,141	92.5	5,559
Judicial branch	Judge/Fed Sup Ct	2	22.2	9	77.8	11
	Judge/Sup Ct Justice	5	16.7	30	83.3	35
	Judge/Supr Labour Ct	5	23.8	21	76.2	26*
	Judge/Supr Elect Trib	1	16.7	6	83.3	7
	Judge/Supr Mil Trib	1	7.1	14	92.9	15
	Total	14	17.5	80	82.5	94*

Sources: Supreme Electoral Court; Federal Supreme Court; and http://www.brasil.gov.br.

Abbreviations: STF, Federal Supreme Court; STJ, Supreme Court of Justice; TST, Superior Labour Court; TSE, Supreme Electoral Tribunal; STM, Supreme Military Tribunal.

* 1 vacant post.

43. At the international level, Brazil was one of the first countries to ensure women's exercise of their political rights. However, it currently ranks among the countries with intermediate or poor performance with respect to the number of women in Congress. In 2009, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Brazil ranked 107th among 187 countries, below the average for the Americas, which was 22.6 per cent for the lower house and 20.2 per cent for the upper house.

44. The Women's Bench in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate is the national gender equality mechanism for the legislative branch. In close coordination with the SPM, it seeks to include discussion of gender issues under all the major items on the agenda of the Chamber of Deputies, such as the economic crisis, political reform and amendments to the Civil Code. The Women's Bench in the Chamber of Deputies currently consists of 45 deputies from 11 parties. In the Senate, the Bench consists of 10 senators from 4 parties.

45. The 2009 amendment of Act No. 9,504/97 is an important step forward in promoting increased political participation by women. A tripartite committee coordinated by the SPM prepared draft legislation and spoke at congressional debates on political reform. As a result of this committee's hard work and that of the Women's Bench, the original wording, "reserve", was changed to "fill", thereby ensuring that each party's or coalition's slate must include a minimum of 30 per cent and a maximum of 70 per cent of candidates of each sex. Women are also ensured a share of their parties' electoral campaign funds and 10 per cent of the free airtime provided for campaigning.[6]

46. The National Forum of Women's Organizations in Political Parties includes representatives of 16 parties.[7] Its goal is to monitor and promote the advancement of women in party bodies; to cooperate in training women on political issues; to have an impact on the discussion of electoral reforms and on legal matters related to elections; to ensure that women's demands are included in campaign platforms; to encourage women to run for office; and to play an effective role in combating discrimination against women.

47. With support from the SPM and the National Council for Women's Rights, the Forum developed the More Women in Power Platform, which develops policies to be used by candidates for elective office. This Platform is based on the ongoing campaign by the same name that was launched in 2009 in order to promote change

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[6] With respect to increasing women's political participation, Act No. 12,034/2009 introduced the following amendments:

(a) Act No. 9,504/1997, article 10, paragraph 3, entered into force with the following wording: "Each party or coalition shall fill a minimum of 30 (thirty) per cent and a maximum of 70 (seventy) per cent of the quotas established under the rules set forth in this article with candidates of each sex".

(b) In article 44 of Act No. 9,096/1995, which regulates the use of parties' campaign funds, the chapeau of paragraph V and paragraph V (5) have been expanded to read:

> "V. The national party leadership body shall allocate a minimum of 5 (five) per cent of funds to the establishment and implementation of programmes that promote and publicize women's political participation."
>
> "5. Any party that does not comply with the provisions of the chapeau of paragraph V of this article shall increase the portion of its campaign funds allocated to this purpose by 2.5 per cent for the following year and shall be prohibited from using it for any other activity."

(c) Article 45, paragraph IV, of Act No. 9,096/1995, which deals with the free airtime provided for political campaigning, has been expanded to read:

> "IV. — promoting and publicizing women's political participation by allocating to women the amount of airtime determined by the national party leadership body, which shall be a minimum of 10 (ten) per cent."

[7] Of the 27 political parties registered in Brazil, 16 have internal women's organizations: the Democrats (DEM), the Partido Comunista Brasileiro (PCB), the Partido Comunista do Brasil (PCdoB), the Partido Democrático Trabalhista (PDT), the Partido Humanista da Solidariedade (PHS), the Partido do Movimento Democrático Brasileiro (PMDB), the Partido Popular (PP), the Partido Popular Socialista (PPS), the Partido de la República (PR), the Partido Republicano Brasileiro (PRB), the Partido Socialista Brasileiro (PSB), the Partido da Social Democracia Brasileira (PSDB), the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT), the Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro (PTB), the Partido Trabalhista Nacional (PTN) and the Partido Verde (PV).

in power structures and institutions, as well as cultural and attitudinal changes leading to new social relations between women and men.[8] Another measure taken jointly by the Forum and the SPM is the development of teaching materials for training women members of political parties; this has helped many women to run for office. To that end, regional seminars were held in 10 states during the first half of 2010. Special attention has been paid to encouraging political participation by black women through the publication of a specific guide by the Racial Equality Policy Department with support from the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP).

48. A significant number of women have achieved high-level professional posts in the judiciary by competitive recruitment (a series of examinations), although their numbers are fewer in the upper echelons. Women account for 45.95 per cent of lawyers, 34.4 per cent of judges and 19.45 per cent of members of the national councils of justice. In 2009, 14 of the 80 superior court judges (17.5 per cent) were women. In the executive branch, the percentage of women in high-level posts rose from 13 per cent in 1999 to 20 per cent in 2009. In the diplomatic corps, women accounted for only 6.1 per cent of Brazil's ambassadors in 2003; at present, 21 of the country's 177 ambassadors are women (11.86 per cent of all diplomats of this rank; women account for 21.1 per cent of the diplomatic corps).

[8] The More Women in Power Platform, developed by the National Forum of Women's Organizations in Political Parties with support from the SPM and the National Council for Women's Rights in preparation for the 2008 elections, was updated for the 2010 state and federal elections. In October 2010, elections were held to fill the office of President of the Republic; state and Federal District government offices; two-thirds of the seats in the federal Senate; and seats in the Chamber of Deputies and the state and Federal District legislative assemblies. The website http://www.maishulheresnopoderbrasil.com.br posts news, statistics, legislation, articles and studies on women in politics, positions of power and decision-making posts by covering women's representation not only in the three branches of Government, but also in public and private enterprises, political parties, and movements and organizations of civil society.

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